

ABM FLEE

WASH STAR

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000300090099-8

21 JAN 67

Defense Spending to Hit \$73 Billion Next Year

Vietnam Alone Costing \$19.4 Billion Now, Rise to \$22 Billion Expected

By RICHARD FRYKLUND

Star Staff Writer

President Johnson's new defense budget reveals that the war in Vietnam is costing \$19.4 billion this fiscal year and probably will cost almost \$22 billion next year.

War costs will push total defense spending to \$73.1 billion for the 1968 fiscal year, starting July 1—\$5.2 billion more than the current year.

In general, it's a hold-the-line budget. Most of the exciting new weapons proposed by the services will be postponed for at least another year.

There is one possible exception—the Nike-X anti-missile missile, a complex set of rockets and radars designed to intercept an enemy missile attack.

But Defense officials indicated that if there is to be a Nike-X it will provide only minimal protection, and its production will be dependent on the Russian reaction to a U.S. proposal that both countries quit trying to build a defense against missiles. For now, there won't be an American defense.

The President put it this way in his budget message to Congress:

"Discussions will be initiated with the Soviet Union on limiting ABM (anti-ballistic missile)

deployments. If these discussions prove unsuccessful, our deployment decision will be reconsidered.

"To provide for actions that may be required at that time, approximately \$375 million has been included for the production of Nike-X for such purposes as defense of our offensive weapon systems."

That is, the United States won't install the defense it is now testing if the Soviet Union will stop installing the defense it has started.

If the Russians do go ahead, the United States may do the same.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have asked, unanimously, that the United States deploy a full Nike-

See DEFENSE, Page A-7